



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER**

**PHONE: (202) 225-3826**

### **BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$70K GRANT TO SOUND BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

*Firefighters Attended Grant Workshop Hosted by Congressman*

**Sound Beach, NY:** Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today announced a \$70,646 federal grant for the Sound Beach Fire Department. The funding will be given as a one-year grant to help fund fire operations and fire safety. In February, Sound Beach District Manager Linda Stankaitis attended a grant workshop run by Bishop.

“Firefighters have always put their lives on the line to protect our communities,” Bishop said. “Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, we have placed additional burdens on our first responders as they are the first line of defense for our homeland security. I am glad we are able to give the Sound Beach Fire Department additional resources to face those burdens.”

The grant was given as part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which is now part of the Department of Homeland Security. This year, funding for this program was more than doubled to \$750 million, a significant boost from the \$360 million in funding available the previous year. The funding will be available as of the next Fiscal Year, which begins on October 1.

Bishop commended the Sound Beach Fire Department for going the extra mile to help their community. Stankaitis drove out to Riverhead for the February 20 grant meeting, despite a snowstorm that night.

“Sound Beach should be proud to be protected by dedicated firefighters who will go the extra mile,” Bishop said. “As we go into the next fiscal year, I will hold more grant workshops to help our firefighters get the resources to protect our families.”

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis to the applicants that most closely address the program's priorities and demonstrate financial need. Funding is available for activities such as hiring additional firefighting personnel; specialized emergency response training for situations like terrorist attacks; the creation of wellness and fitness programs for firefighters; equipment and facility upgrades; and fire prevention programs.

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